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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

- 25X1 1. The report that the East German state (DDR) intends to restrict severely the activities of the churches is correct. There has been a plan for several months to establish a Secretaryship of State for the Churches. It is said that it will be headed by Dr. Gerhard Reinartz, member of the Soviet Zone Christian Democratic Union (CDU) who is actually the personal representative of Foreign Minister Georg Dertinger. The plans of the Socialist Unity Party (SED) central secretariat go so far as to propose the establishment in the Soviet Zone of a state church which shall be completely dissociated from the present heads of the Catholic and Evangelical Churches in all matters of administration. If this plan becomes a reality, the clergy of both confessions will be employees of the state.
2. The idea of the creation of a Secretaryship of Churches is especially favored by Gerald Goetting, the general secretary of the East Zone CDU, and some of his colleagues. The whole circle propagandizes for the establishment of pure socialism. Otto Nuschke and his representative, Grünbaum (fnu), in the office of "Relations with the Churches" (Verbindung zu den Kirchen), have tried to apply the brakes to this plan, and have attempted an agreement with the leaders of both confessions, to carry through "a genuine new organization of church life", with their cooperation.
3. Pastor Martin Niemöller is said to have raised sharp objections to this plan in Karlshorst, and threatened to give up his work for German unification upon the carrying out of a church nationalization plan.
4. The former church officer of the Soviet Control Commission, Colonel Vassilievsky (fnu), has been called back from Moscow in order to take part in the deliberations of the parties in the East Zone over the nationalization plan.

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5. The nationalization plan fits in with the decision of the East Zone government to make the Soviet Zone a 100-percent people's democracy, without further regard to outside considerations. The East Zone CDU has recognized the people's democracy system in a program of 22 propositions published in its Berlin organ, *Neue Zeit*, on 19 October 1952. It is said that the carrying out of the "democratization" will come in the spring of 1953. The date was originally fixed for 31 December 1952.
6. The SED hopes that after complete democratization, the East German state will be raised to the favorite satellite of Moscow. Moscow is concerned to raise the prestige of the DDR. This accounts for the visit of the Hungarian Government representative to Berlin, and the presence of N.M. Schwernik at the celebration of the third anniversary of the East German state also for the moving to Berlin of the congress of the Friends of Peace "for peaceful solution of the German question", which was originally to have taken place in Stockholm.
7. The SED is to be filled up again with young functionaries schooled in Moscow. The November elections in the Free German Trade Union (FDGB) are supposed to get rid of all delegates not true to the party line, including the old Communists who do not absolutely swear by Stalin.
8. Moscow is further convinced that France can be detached from the united Western opposition front.
9. The general line is as follows: Stabilization of the two Germanys, creation of a Peiping-Moscow-Pankow axis, complete democratization of the DDR, and elimination of all not true-line representatives in the Communist Parties in the other satellite states, and in France and Italy.
10. It was planned to raise a loan for the national defense. This has been given up because the local SED committees reported that the people would rebel against it. A compulsory savings system will be set up instead, which will bring the population back to the level of 1948. The government has established stocks of reserves which already have led to considerable shortages of butter, fats, and meat. The Soviet Zone mass organizations have the mission of saving so that the cover organizations in West Germany can be strengthened.

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